



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, October 18, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NTV gave top play to a report that the Tokyo metropolitan government announced today that it will be able to reduce the cost of the boat facility for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics by about 19 billion yen by using an existing facility in Miyagi. NHK and TBS led with reports that Tokyo Governor Koike and IOC President Bach will meet this afternoon in Tokyo. TV Asahi reported that the IOC is studying the possible use of a boat facility in South Korea in light of Tokyo's review of the original plan.

POLITICS

Bipartisan group of lawmakers visits Yasukuni

NHK reported at noon that 85 members of a bipartisan group of lawmakers visited Yasukuni Shrine earlier in the day. The group visits the shrine during the spring and autumn festivals as well as on Aug. 15 every year. LDP lawmaker Hidehisa Otsuji, who heads the group, and DP lawmaker Yuichiro Hata were among the 85. Concerning the likelihood that PM Abe will not visit the shrine, Otsuji reportedly told reporters: "The people who died will understand if it is for the sake of Japan's relations with other nations. However, I think PM Abe should candidly say that he 'greatly regrets' not being able to visit the shrine."

- [Prime minister's schedule on October 17](#) (Nikkei)
- [Rift between DP and Rengo over Niigata gubernatorial race, nuclear power policy](#) (Asahi)

- [Michitaro Watanabe joins LDP-led parliamentary group](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan kicks off abdication debate with focus on one-time exception](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SCIENCE

[Environment Minister Yamamoto to look into revising law to control HFCs](#)

NHK reported this afternoon that following the decision on Oct. 15 to regulate hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Montreal Protocol, Minister for the Environment Yamamoto told reporters today that he will look into revising a law to regulate domestic production of HFCs. The network added that although developed nations such as Japan have agreed to reduce the production of HFCs by 85% by 2036, at present there is no law in Japan to regulate HFCs.

[Whale institute to open new lab in Taiji](#)

NHK reported at noon that plans are underway to open a laboratory of the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) in Taiji, Wakayama, which is famous for its dolphin drive hunting. The network said the ICR is a private research institute conducting research whaling in the Southern Ocean and Northwest Pacific. According to the report, after the ICR's laboratory in Ishinomaki, Miyagi, was shut down due to damage from the tsunami in 2011, the town of Taiji offered to host the facility.

SECURITY

- [Opposition leader arrested for cutting barbed wire at NTA in Okinawa](#) (Sankei)
- [SDF chief Kawano considers using THAAD to defend Japan](#) (Sankei)
- [Osprey to be deployed to Yokosuka as carrier-based aircraft by 2025](#) (Akahata)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Russian gov't begins handing out land in Northern Territories for free](#) (Sankei)

[“Mommy, call my name, not Putin,” Ambassador Power shares her personal life](#) (Asahi)

- [Cartoon: Trump](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

ECONOMY

- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House special committee on TPP, Oct. 17](#) (Nikkei Online)
- [Governors' positions on TPP](#) (Bungeishunju)
- [Successive loses in gubernatorial races rattle ruling parties](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Nuclear fuel cycle](#) (Akahata)
- [Gov't makes vigorous efforts to urge companies to introduce telework](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: New governor should calmly discuss Niigata nuclear plant reactivation](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Gov't, TEPCO should take Niigata gubernatorial election results seriously](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Energizing the aerospace industry in Japan](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan team produces massive number of eggs from mouse iPS cells](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Fear of Japan becoming subcontractor for global high-tech players](#) (Sankei)

OPINION POLLS

- [57% oppose restarting nuclear power plants, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [86% say acceptance of blank receipts is "problematic," Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)
- [Cabinet support rate rises for fourth consecutive month, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Sankei Shimbun](#) (Sankei)

TV PROGRAMS

Japanese wine building strong reputation worldwide

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Monday reported on Japanese wine, which is building a great reputation around the world. The program said the taste of Japanese wine has improved greatly due mainly to improvements in the quality of the grapes used. There are now more than 240 wineries in

Japan, and many winemakers are trying to compensate for Japan's hot and humid climate through the use of IT. The program said the GOJ established a new rule last year under which wine labeled "Japanese wine" must be made from 100% domestically grown grapes.

